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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 19 | Humidity 81% Scattered Showers Sensex 65,446 | Nifty 19,398 | Gold 58,510 | Silver 70,990 | Dollar 82.24 | Euro 89.56 | GBP 104.62

Severely short-staffed Horticulture Dept of BBMP unable to take up added responsibility of looking after saplings planted on roadsides, medians

WITHERING HEIGHTS

Civic activists slam waste of money on plantation drives

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Whenever you see a withered sapling planted on the roadside in Bengaluru East Zone, also spare a thought for our understaffed Horticulture Department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The delay in hiring manpower has resulted in hundreds of vacancies in a crucial department that must ensure the city remains green.

Though there is no problem for the plants or seedlings during monsoon, there is no one to maintain these saplings in summer.

It is said that there is an acute shortage of manpower with the Horticulture Department. As per the norms, the Horticulture Department of BBMP East should have around 360 employees but it has only 35 employees thus making it tough to look after the saplings planted on the road side and in median in the BBMP East Zone that includes six

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

"They (BBMP engineers) are not bothered about the acute shortage of manpower. They simply plant saplings and forget about them. We have to take the blame if those saplings wither due to lack of water

– Horticulture officer

Get up to speed, or pay up

Motorists react as traffic police introduces steep fines for violations on Expressway

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

After reports of too many accidents on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, traffic police seems to have brought out its first line of defence -- fine the motorist. So, from today, if you are going beyond 100 kmph on the Expressway, you may have to shell out Rs 1,000 as a fine and you would face the risk of losing your driver's licence too. The move has got motorists talking and throwing up suggestions on the Internet.

Additional Director General of Police, Traffic and Road Safety Alok Kumar inspected the expressway on Wednesday. "We will be watching out for four major traffic rules: sticking to the speed limit, following lanes, wearing seat belts for car users, and helmets, which are mandatory for bikers.

There are 28 automatic number plate recognition cameras to catch the speedsters and violators," he said. Ramanagar SP Karthik Reddy added that the leftmost lane will have a maximum speed of 80 kmph, the middle lane 90 kmph, and the rightmost lane 100 kmph.

He said, "The fine collection will start from Thursday. If anyone violates the rules, the penalty imposed can be Rs 1,000,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Mega show

Don't miss the chance to attend a mega dance drama presenting the contribution of the great freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju. 40 dancers present this narrative with a blend of tribal, folk, Kuchipudi, and modern dance styles. This dance drama commemorates the freedom fighter's 125th birth anniversary and is a part of the Nrutya Rangoli festival. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall**
When: July 9; 6 pm onwards

02 Puppet magic

ArtstageSan, a creative art group from South Korea, is presenting puppet theatre by exploring heartwarming impressions through diverse stories. The group uses puppets as a medium, incorporating a constant evolution of visual effects. The production is presented with lyrical music and a unique set of objects.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Sunday, July 9; 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Pedalling the distance

Bengalurean bags 7th position after completing Race Across America; hopes to make impact on any cyclist willing to take up ultracycling

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Srinivas Gokulnath finished the race in 11 days and 6 hours. Participants were required to travel from the west coast to the east coast of the United States

Srinivas Gokulnath, an ultra cyclist from the city, has bagged 7th place after successfully finishing the Race Across America (RAA), an ultra-distance road cycling race held across the United States and one of the longest annual endurance events in the world. Participants are required to travel from the west coast to the east coast of the United States, approximately 3,000 miles (4,800 km), in order to complete the race.

"For the solo category, the race must be finished within a span of 12 days, which means that, on average, we are supposed to ride 450 km every single day. It has been happening for the past 42 years, but only over 370 racers have been successful in completing it," said Srinivas.

Unlike most multi-day bicycle races such as the Tour De France, this particular race does not have any stages; there is no specified distance to travel each day, and there are no designated rest periods for food and sleep. Having to ride continuously for days without adequate rest is what puts this race in the ultra-distance cycling race category. "The race gets complicated not just by the distance or time given but also by the varying terrain and the constant focus required on every moment," he added.

Every participant has the liberty to chalk out their own strategy. Srinivas explained that he did not sleep for the first 24 hours but began to sleep for 90–120 minutes in the coming days. He would take liquid nutrition while riding and one solid meal before going to sleep.

"The race makes you have to be mindful about your time. In day-to-day life, we do not bother about how much time it takes to do mundane things; we are unaware, but in the race, every second counts. It makes you appreciate every second powerfully," he informed.

This was Srinivas's third attempt at this particular race. In his second attempt, he finished the race within a span of 11 days and 18 hours and was also the first Indian to ever complete the race. Now, he has finished the race in 11 days and 6 hours.

> **"For the solo category, the race must be finished within a span of 12 days. On average, we need to ride 450 km** – Srinivas

An aerospace medicine specialist by profession, Srinivas said that his love for cycles comes from his childhood. "I come from a middle-class family, and my father, as a milkman, used to own a bicycle. I used the cycle as a means to explore new places when I was six years old. Finding out that a single destination has several different routes gave me a sense of freedom and happiness," he further added. In 2019, after being posted to Bengaluru, Srinivas was intrigued by the cycling community in the city and took up ultra racing.

When asked about his future plans, Srinivas said that he hopes to make a powerful impact on any cyclist hoping to take up ultracycling. Hinting that there might not be another attempt, he said, "It is very difficult to pursue the race every single year as it requires a lot of resources and sacrifice. I want to share my story with those who aspire to take up ultracycling. It's how I think I will be able to give back to society."

Festivity of culture

The Culture - 2023 programme, featuring inter-college cultural and management competitions, began at BMS College of Commerce and Management on Monday. Inaugurating the programme, Bollywood actress Vidya Balan shared the trailer of her upcoming Hindi film, 'Neet', as well as a song from the movie. She joined the BMS students in a dance performance to some of her popular film songs. Speaking at the event, she said she considers Bengaluru her second home. Ragini Narayan, the Donor Trustee of BMS Educational Institution; Aviram Sharma, President of BMS College of Commerce and Management; Wing Commander Raghavan, the Director of the Admin Wing; Gautham, the Chairman of BMS Hospital; and Dr Pankaj Chaudhary, the Principal of the college, were present.

Whole of city showed up for football fete

It's been a slow transition for football in the city, but for the Bangabandhu SAFF Championship finals, the tickets were sold out. The packed stadium was witness to another brilliant, nail-biting game, with India winning the match in sudden death. The official numbers for the game were 26,380, despite it being a weekday.

Some fans talked about the growth of football in the city over the years. Shane Lobo, a fan at the West Block, said, "I've been going to games for the last 10 years, but the atmosphere for the finals was out of this world. The way the crowd sang in unison and everyone was happy, the crowd always believed we could win."

Meanwhile, a video of the crowd singing 'Vande Mataram' went viral on social media.

"Yesterday, even though it was a weekday, the stadium was packed. I remember going to games where hardly anyone was there, and now for this game, there was no place to stand. Sandesh Jhingan was brilliant, apart from great performances from Skipper Sunil Chhetri and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu," added Lobo.

Meghana, another spectator at the stadium, said, "Who would've thought that 26,000 people would turn around at Kanteerava on a weekday to support the Indian football team? I thought only Manjappada fans from Kerala offered this kind of support to their football club. The best part was fans from all over India coming together as one to support football."

Sunil Chhetri, the Indian skipper, has 92 goals to his credit, the third highest among the active players, and is a crowd puller. "All the credit goes to players, especially Chhetri, who worked hard to get this far and has put massive effort into making fans fall in love with football in India. After FIFA honoured Chhetri for his achievements, people started to talk about it, and people started to watch and support Indian football," added Meghana.

Suraj Nair, another big Indian football fan, said, "Thanks to Bengaluru FC and West Block Blues for changing the way people in the city look at football. Because of them, many young kids are getting into football, and interest is increasing."

He added that nothing can beat the adrenaline rush of chanting and cheering for the team and watching the team win. Mahesh Gawli, the assistant Indian coach, also acknowledged the Indian crowd at the stadium. "The crowd was amazing. We want this support, and I think after these results, we want to see this in all the other states as well."

— Abhijeet Kabad

Stepping out at night?

Women sceptical about bike taxi's service in light of sexual harassment complaints

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Women who use bike taxis still vulnerable to harassment

Rapido, a bike taxi and auto aggregator, has announced the introduction of a new safety feature called 'Night Rides Check'. This move comes after the aggregator faced severe criticism for ignoring complaints of sexual harassment made by women passengers. With this new initiative, Rapido aims to ensure the safety of passengers using the service between 10 pm and 6 am by providing them with a safety confirmation call after the completion of their ride.

However, regular commuters who frequently use the application remain sceptical. Archana, a regular user of bike taxis, insisted that the government should follow the path taken by Delhi. The Delhi government recently announced a draft Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme 2023, which aims to regulate aggregators and delivery service providers. The scheme mandates aggregators to install a panic button in all vehicles and integrate it with the 112 Delhi Police emergency helpline. It also includes a mechanism to address consumer grievances in a timely manner and requires drivers with poor performance to undergo remedial training. "The government needs to mandate regulations like in Delhi to ensure women feel safe while traveling in bike taxis. We cannot rely on companies for resolution since they are known for their lack of accountability," Archana said.

> **"There is a need for stricter background checks of employees and providing workshops to riders who've been flagged for inappropriate behaviour**
>
> –Sanjana K, IT employee

Sanjana Koujalgi, an IT employee who frequently commutes using aggregator applications, questioned the effectiveness of ensuring safety after the ride is completed. She stressed the importance of stricter background checks for employees and providing workshops to riders who have been flagged for inappropriate behaviour. She cited a recent incident where a 30-year-old woman had to jump off a moving Rapido bike to protect herself from a rider who attempted to sexually harass her.

Tara, another commuter, suggested that companies should maintain a database of passenger complaints and provide an annual report to the relevant authority. "Statistics will demonstrate whether they are actively working towards ensuring the safety of women. The transport department can also take a stance on whether these companies should be allowed to operate in the future or not," she said.

The Karnataka government has recently started preparing to approach the High Court with a plea to reverse its order that restricts transport authorities from taking action against bike taxi services in Bengaluru. Currently, in Karnataka, only e-bike taxis are allowed to operate under the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme, 2021. However, petrol-run bike taxis from Rapido and Uber can be seen operating in the city without much scrutiny from the transport department, as the High Court, in August 2021, directed them not to take "coercive action" against bike taxis after Rapido, a Bengaluru-based startup backed by Westbridge Capital and Nexus Venture Partners, filed a petition.

Train pelted with stones

Miscreants pelted stones on the recently launched Bengaluru-Dharwad Vande Bharat Express between Kadur-Birur section in Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday morning, railway authorities said.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is investigating the matter.

According to railway officials, the incident occurred at 8.40 am when the train was passing between Kadur-Birur section at "KM 207/500".

The stones hit the glasses of C5 coach at seats No. 43 and 44 and EC-1 coach toilet. Due to the incident, the outer glass was damaged. However, no one was injured.

"There is no breakthrough. RPF is investigating by checking the CCTV footage. Site investigation is also being done," a railway official told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat train connecting the state capital with Dharwad city on June 27. This is the second Vande Bharat train in Karnataka. The first one is running between Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru. – PTI

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Can VIP visit fix it?

BBMP Joint Commissioner visits Doddanekkundi, informs residents will look into complaints that include disorganised door-to-door garbage collection

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The improperly covered new culvert in Doddanekkundi; residents in the area met BBMP Joint Commissioner (Mahadevapura Zone) Dr Dakshayani K on Tuesday afternoon and gave positive feedback

Doddanekkundi has been hitting the headlines for all the wrong reasons. Recently, it was in the news when Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities made a futile attempt to clear encroachments of stormwater drains. Now, it is in the news for the apathy of the authorities in fixing infrastructure-related problems.

The residents said that they have been running from pillar to post to get the problems fixed, but in vain. They succeeded in inviting BBMP Joint Commissioner (Mahadevapura Zone), Dr Dakshayani K, to Doddanekkundi to narrate their problems. It is said that Dr Dakshayani assumed the office of Joint Commissioner recently and conducted a meeting with residents' welfare associations in the Mahadevapura Zone. Dakshayani visited Doddanekkundi on Tuesday afternoon.

The residents said that they were very happy with the proactive meeting. "We spoke of rainwater flooding houses whenever it rains heavily. Many homeowners residing along the stormwater drain are fed up with the negligence of authorities concerned. The ward engineer never responds to our phone calls. If he does, he seldom fixes the problems," said K Rajasekhar, a resident of the area. He also said garbage is dumped along the road and vacant places as door-to-door garbage collection is not happening as per the norms.

Rajashree W, a resident and a Suchi Mitra volunteer, said that the lack of supervision and quality checks is the reason for substandard work by the contractor. "There is no one to supervise the ongoing developmental works. The quality of a few culverts that were constructed recently is far from convincing. These culverts were not closed properly. The gaps between the slabs pose danger to pedestrians and motorists," said Rajashree.

> **We spoke of rainwater flooding houses. Many homeowners residing along the stormwater drain are fed up with the negligence**
> – K Rajasekhar, resident of the area

Meanwhile, P Ramesh Chander, an activist, said, "I have told the Joint Commissioner about the ward engineer who neither responds nor fixes the problems. We brought up issues such as encroachment of footpaths, letting dirty water into roadside drains by commercial establishments, and also illegal water connections."

He said the residents have discussed the possibility of collecting garbage at night to keep Doddanekkundi clean. The residents said the Joint Commissioner has evinced interest in taking up a tree plantation drive and installing CCTV cameras for women's safety. The Joint Commissioner reportedly expressed concern over the issue of letting dirty water into roadside drains and issued directions to the engineer to take measures to stop the same.

One of the agreed-upon ideas was to implement a CRM to redress citizens' grievances which will track all the issues raised by the citizens specific to Doddanekundi ward.

Bills are adding up - over ₹20K cr!

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) having pending dues of over Rs 20,000 crore, the members from the association met the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, in June to clear the dues. However, with the amount not yet released, the association has threatened to go on a statewide strike from July 15.

The KSCA president, D Kempanna, revealed that the members had met the CM and requested the release of the amount. The state government then ordered the departments to release the pending bills, but it was not done.

"On June 28, the government issued a circular to accept our request and release the pending amount to the various departments. But even after a week since the order, the money has not been released. Contractors are facing financial hardship as money has not been released for one-and-a-half months," said Kempanna.

The members of KSCA revealed that bills worth crores of rupees are pending from departments like the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Public Works Department (PWD), Irrigation Department, Water Resources Department, Education Department, and others.

Kempanna added, "We have all the bills for the pending amount. A major amount is pending from the Water Resources Department. Over Rs 10,000 crore is pending for works that have already been completed. We had even demanded help from the previous government and received no assistance. Now, we are waiting for the present government to bring about change."

He further added that during the election, all the works were stopped, and even after the election, the pending works haven't started as they are short of funds. "Many workers have taken loans or borrowed materials and equipment, stating that they will pay those back once they get the amount released.

But as the amount is not being released by the state government, it is becoming extremely difficult. The contractors have to take care of their daily needs, houses, and families. Every person is going through a tough time," added Kempanna.

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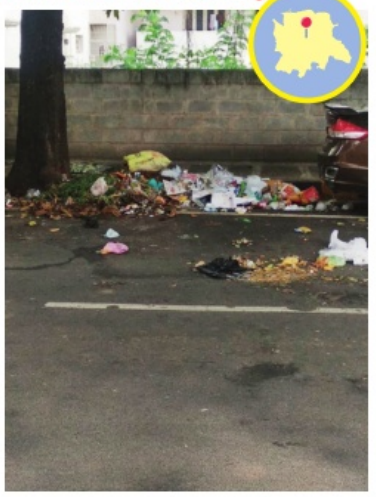
Garbage accumulating

BHEL Officers Colony



Garbage has not been cleared by the contractor in the BHEL Officers Colony on 22nd Main Road for the past two or three days.

Walkers block

Bannerghatta Road

There is a board obstructing pedestrians on the footpath near RTO (51) Junction, BTM 4th Stage, Bannerghatta Road.

Vendor woes

Yelahanka

In Yelahanka, at Raithara Santhe, there is haphazard parking by vendors that causes traffic congestion in the mornings.

Techie murder: On-the-run boyfriend finally nabbed

Bengaluru police have solved the case of a woman software professional's murder with the arrest of her boyfriend from New Delhi who managed to give them the slip for over 20 days as he traversed all over the country. The accused was identified as Arpit Gujral.

Police said that both were in a live-in relationship and lived at her flat in the city.

Gujral had told the police that he killed the woman as she broke up with him and that he didn't want anyone to get her. He had come to Bengaluru on the pretext of meeting her for the last time on June 6, had smothered her to death with a pillow at her flat. Gujral had meticulously planned the murder to elude the police. He had left his mobile at Delhi while coming to Bengaluru and brought 7 to 8 sets of clothes and Rs 5,000 cash from home.

He had first gone to Vijayawada, kept his clothes there and then come to Bengaluru. He did not take a vehicle, but walked to the apartment, keeping his face concealed. After the murder, he hid and left only after the incident came to light. He walked for 8 km to the railway station and took a train to Hyderabad. From there, he went to Assam in a train where he worked as a daily wage labourer and vegetable vendor. Later, he came to Vijayawada and took shelter at a friend's building, from where he was caught. – IANS

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The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

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Payment of Application Fees/ Intimation Charges (Online)	**01.07.2023 to 21.07.2023**
Download of call letters for Pre- Exam Training *	**August, 2023**
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training *	**August, 2023**
Download of call letters for Online examination – Preliminary	**August, 2023**
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Result of Online exam – Preliminary	**September/ October, 2023**
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Mumbai
Date: 01.07.2023 **Director**

Say no to borewells

Groundwater levels down in some areas of Bengaluru, compared to last year

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The deficit in rainfall this monsoon has led to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) taking extreme measures to fight the looming water scarcity. The civic agency is planning on digging 100 new borewells in areas like Mahadevapura, Bengaluru South, RR Nagar, and Yelahanka.

However, the recent report by the Groundwater Directorate of Bengaluru has a different story to narrate. According to the most recent groundwater level fluctuation report, the groundwater levels in some of these areas have dropped this year compared with last year.

While the groundwater table in Bengaluru South has recorded a drop of more than four metres below ground level in May compared with May 2022, East has recorded a drop of 2 metres below the ground level.

As per the report, the groundwater tables in South, Anekal, North and Yelahanka are now available at 10 - 20 metres below ground level. East is reachable at 20 -30 metres below ground level.

Experts say digging borewells in over-exploited areas is not ideal. However, in the absence of any other viable solution, the palike must ensure that the aquifers are recharged with an equivalent amount of water withdrawn.

"Digging 100 borewells is not an ideal solution. However, BBMP must ensure that artificial recharge structures such as recharge wells are being created to ensure groundwater availability. The civic agency can also look at constructing recharge wells in storm water drains in the area.

Digging borewells will not be a good idea to restore water.

BangaloreMirror
Rolling in the deep
When it rains it floods, but when there is rain deficit, water hunt begins. BBMP to dig 100 borewells

BM reports on July 4, on digging borewells due to rainfall deficit.

The idea is to balance off the volume of water being extracted by recharging the groundwater table," said Shubha Ramachandran, water team lead at Biome Environmental Trust.

Groundwater experts say while rains have failed this year, the above-average monsoon last year has led to shallow aquifers in low-lying areas. BBMP should look at these aquifers and either recharge or revive old open wells. BBMP should also take the lead and register all borewells with the authority concerned.

According to Ramachandran, the civic body should also look at creating a spatial map of all the new aquifers. This can serve as the much-needed start for mapping the city's aquifers as a whole.

"A map of all the borewells with information such as borewell depth, water quality, yield, and recharge structure can be created. While borewells are being dug indiscriminately, there is a complete lack of information on the city's aquifers. Every borewell should be metered and this information should be available in the public domain. This will help us in making informed decisions on actions to be taken for effective water management," added Ramachandran.

"Digging 100 borewells is not an ideal solution. However, BBMP must ensure that artificial recharge structures such as recharge wells are being created to ensure groundwater availability

–Shubha Ramachandran

Fight over fire

Commotion and heated debate erupted in HSR Layout on Wednesday as residents raised alarm over a fire lit up in their neighbourhood, causing severe breathing difficulties. The fire started around 12 PM, emitting heavy pollution that made it difficult for people to breathe. A resident spoke to Mirror, mentioning the fire was ignited at a nearby truck company where hazardous waste such as engine oil, engine oil filters, fuel filters, rubber, and plastic waste was allegedly set ablaze."Frustrated by the situation, we approached the company manager urging him to extinguish the fire. However, our pleas were met with rude and apathetic responses. The prolonged burning of the fire caused distress to residents, particularly children and the elderly, who struggled to breathe normally due to the heavy smoke", said a resident. With the situation escalating, the police were eventually called in to intervene and address the hazardous fire and its impact on the community.

JD(S) slams Karnataka Govt

The Janata Dal JD(S) on Wednesday launched a fresh attack on the ruling Congress in Karnataka by calling the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) the "Corruption Management Office".

It further attacked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra and DyCM D.K. Shivakumar.

Taking a dig at the grand-old party, the JD(S) tweeted that earlier the Kannada people wrongly understood the CMO stood for the "Chief Minister's Office". But, now they have realised that it is a "Corruption Management Office". The reason is simple, if "YST tax" is not made, the transfer orders will find a place in dustbins, JD(S) stated making an indirect reference to CM Siddaramaiah's son, former MLA Yathindra.

"If you want to get the order on the day of transfer, the payment of "YST Tax" is compulsory. If you don't pay, the orders will go to dustbins," the post by JD(S) stated.

–IANS

No nature without nurture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Assembly constituencies such as Shivajinagar, Shanti Nagar, CV Raman Nagar, Pulikeshi Nagar, Sarvagna Nagar, and KR Puram.

"All these years, the BBMP Horticulture Department has been looking after parks but now it is assigned to look after saplings planted on the road sides and in the road median of newly developed roads," said a horticulture department officer on the condition of anonymity.

The horticulture officer blamed the BBMP engineers of the major roads department for not consulting the horticulture department while designing the road and footpaths. He said the BBMP engineers plant saplings as per their whims and fancies and hand over the maintenance of those saplings to the horticulture department. "I discussed this issue with the BBMP ward engineers several times but in vain. They are not bothered about the acute shortage of manpower. They simply plant saplings and forget about them. We have to take the blame if those saplings wither away due to lack of water," he said.

Stating that maintaining or nurturing plants in a park is easier than maintaining saplings planted on the road sides and at road medians, the horticulture department officer said that stray cattle are the main cause for damage of saplings planted in these spaces. "We are trying our best to maintain the saplings and plants planted on the road sides. The number of roads developed is more in Bengaluru East and West compared with other zones," he said.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP for not maintaining the saplings planted on Jayamahal Palace Road and other roads in Shivajinagar Assembly constituency, Satya Achayya, a resident of Nandi Durga Road Extension, said the BBMP has wasted tax-payers' money by planting all types of saplings and plants on the road sides.

"Many saplings have been planted on St. John's Road near the Kendriya Vidyalaya. It is a major health and security problem. The same problem persists on Millers Road near the UT College and on the narrow footpath behind the Bowring Institute on Lavelle Road," said Satya Achayya.

Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist from Seegehalli, demanded that the BBMP provide data on the number of saplings planted. "I have been demanding that the authorities assign a number to each of the saplings planted on the road sides and on the road medians but in vain. The objective is to get details on the saplings, contractor and the money spent for planting saplings," said Raghotham.

KAUSHIK JN

The buzz: Tow be or not tow be?

As traffic police say decision on reintroduction of towing in order to tackle illegal parking lies with govt; senior officials debunk any talk of towing

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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FILE PHOTO

Is towing making a comeback in the city? That's the buzz, as reports indicate that during a recent meeting with Home Minister G Parameshwara, some police officials advocated for the reintroduction of towing in order to tackle haphazard and illegal parking in the city. However, senior officials state that, at present, there is no proposal to bring back towing. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth stated, "No decision has been made yet regarding the reintroduction of towing. No such proposal has been submitted either. The decision on towing can only be made at the government level."

Previously, there were reports that senior police officials had suggested that instead of outsourcing towing to contractors, it would be better for the police to handle towing themselves and provide one towing vehicle for each of the 10 subdivisions.

Looking at the statistics, a fine of Rs 7.43 crore was collected through vehicle towing in 2019, with Rs 2.45 crore being transferred to private contractors responsible for managing towing vehicles and personnel. In 2020, Rs 3.57 crore was collected, with Rs 73.84 lakh going to the contractor. In 2021, out of the Rs 6.91 crore collected, Rs 1.53 crore was the share of the private contractors.

Previously, the towing contractors association had approached the High Court seeking directions for the government to restart towing. The association members demanded that towing in the state be introduced in a manner similar to that of the governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The towing of vehicles has become a topic of debate. The city police argue that towing is necessary to prevent roads from becoming congested due to haphazard parking. However, concerns remain regarding the implementation of the towing facility.

> **"No decision has been made yet regarding the reintroduction of towing. No such proposal has been submitted either. Decision can only be made at government level** – MN Anucheth

There have been numerous allegations and complaints related to towing. For the past few months, towing activity has come to a halt.

Following complaints of gross irregularities during towing, the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai ordered a suspension of towing in February 2022 due to public outrage. Previously, there were complaints of inhumane treatment of vehicle owners in the Indiranagar and Halasuru gate police station limits, which sparked severe public outrage as videos of the incidents went viral. Following this, Bommai convened a meeting with police officials and ordered them to cease towing vehicles in the city.

Traffic police also state that there are ongoing discussions at the government level regarding this matter. In the absence of vehicle towing, the police have resorted to photographing vehicles parked in no-parking zones and sending notices to the owners.

Surendra Gowda, a resident of JC Nagar, said, "The government should not be in a hurry to bring back towing as there were a lot of allegations. The personnel hired to tow vehicles were very rude to the public. There have been instances where the vehicles that were towed were damaged by these personnel, and no compensation was paid. Moreover, even though the towing vehicles would try to honk, there were still no warnings given to the public before taking away the vehicles."

Awaited: Leader of the Opposition

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said on Wednesday that the much-awaited announcement on the posts of the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) and the state president of the Karnataka BJP unit was most likely to be made on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Yediyurappa said the central leaders have taken the opinion of the LOP and state chief. The matter is likely to be discussed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP National President JP Nadda. "We are hoping that a decision will be taken in this regard, and we will abide by the decision of the party high command," he said.

Sources explained that senior BJP leaders Vinod Tawde and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who came to the state as observers, will submit their report to the party high command. **IANS**

Suicide: Parents suspect foul play

Parents of a young engineering student who allegedly committed suicide in her college hostel in Chikkaballapur have lodged a police complaint, suspecting foul play.

An investigation has been launched based on the complaint, police said on Tuesday.

Twenty-two-year-old Preethi, a student at the reputed Nagarjuna Engineering College, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her room on Monday noon. A second-year student in the Information Science division, she stayed at a ladies hostel at the college.

Preethi hailed from Yalduru village near Srinivasapura, Kolar. Preliminary inquiries revealed that she had not gone to the college on Monday and stayed back in the hostel. She had informed the hostel warden and a friend that she was unwell and would not attend classes. When one of her friends went to her room to check on her, the incident came to light. **IANS**

Eye for betterment: 12th grader makes it happen

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 12th-grade student, Ramana Ramachandran, who studies at Mallya Aditi International School in the city, conducts regular coding classes during his free time to help underprivileged students. He noticed that some of the students were having difficulty seeing the blackboard, so he decided to organise a free eye health check-up camp to improve their vision, benefiting over 200 students.

Ramana, a resident of Malleswaram, was tutoring students from classes 8, 9, and 10 at the Sackhumvit Trust when he observed some of the children squinting while trying to see the blackboard.

Earlier this year, he completed a three-month internship at the Sankara Eye Hospital. During his stint there, he was impressed by the use of advanced technological devices such as fundus cameras and corneal analysers for diagnosing eye disorders. Being enthusiastic about learning new technologies, he closely worked with ophthalmologists. Inspired by this experience, he took it upon himself to utilise these devices to screen children who had limited access to medical care.

He approached the principal at Sackhumvit Trust to request permission to conduct a vision screening camp for the children. "Over 200 children were screened for refractive errors. First, after obtaining the children's consent, I started looking for health tech companies that could assist me with the screening. That's when I came across Forus Health and reached out to them to inquire if they could provide their equipment and technology to help screen the children. They readily agreed and even sent a dozen people from their team to support me. The handheld auto refractometer, a portable device utilising sensor technology, accurately detected refractive errors in less than a minute. Its user-friendly operation required minimal expertise. Additionally, corneal examinations were performed using a slit-lamp camera. The findings were uploaded to the Cloud for verification by ophthalmologists."

The screening took place in late June, and it was discovered that out of the 200 children screened, 30 of them had refractive errors and needed glasses. The principal of Sackhumvit Trust, Rajini, stepped forward to sponsor funds for obtaining glasses with the correct power for the children, and Forus Health facilitated the production of the glasses.

The glasses were distributed to the students on Monday, and they found them very comfortable to wear. They are now able to see the blackboard with more ease.

"Expanding such camps on a larger scale and utilising technology can have a significant impact, benefiting numerous underprivileged children with limited access to healthcare," said Ramana.

Speeding vehicles will pay for it on Expressway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and there is also a chance of them losing their licence."

Interceptors, barricades

Meanwhile, police have deployed interceptors and started penalising those exceeding the maximum permissible speed limit.

To curb the speed, the police have started to place barricades at accident prone zones. However, twiteratti has taken exception to this. Ritwik Shukla, a netizen, expressed skepticism about the approach, suggesting that a speed gun be used to check slow-moving traffic in the left lane instead.

He also said a highway patrol authority like in the USA would improve road safety. Another netizen agreed with the imposition of speed limits but criticised the placement of barricades on the expressway, suggesting the need for better warning signs.

Karthik, a Twitter user, voiced strong opposition to the use of barricades, claiming they caused more harm than good.

He shared a video illustrating his concerns and urged authorities to rely on technological solutions rather than endangering lives. Arshad pointed out on Twitter that capturing violations beyond just speeding, such as failure to follow lane discipline and driving without licence, would be beneficial in reducing accidents. Sudhir, a netizen, recommended the installation of speed cameras every three km, operating round the clock and issuing instant fines via SMS.

ACCIDENTS, DEATHS between Jan 1 and June 30

Month	Total accidents	Fatal	Grievous injuries
January	93	19	110
February	93	16	99
March	76	26	86
April	82	22	120
May	110	30	100
June	58	10	70
TOTAL	**512**	**123**	**585**

However, Lakki Lakshman, criticised the placement of barricades, stating they obstructed traffic flow and suggested using technology to enforce regulations, emphasising that the speed limit on the expressway seemed excessive compared to other roads.

The recent police actions come in response to the surge in road accidents. According to PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, in the last 181 days, Bengaluru Mysuru Road has witnessed a total of 512 accidents, resulting in 123 fatalities and 585 injuries.

On average, this translates to approximately 2.83 accidents, 3.23 injuries, and 0.68 fatalities per day. Jarkiholi stated, "The main reasons for the increase in accidents are lack of lane discipline and speeding.

We have been stressing on lane discipline, where slow-moving vehicles have to compulsorily travel on the left lane. There is a proposal to ban two and three-wheeler vehicles on the expressway, and currently, the proposal is with the Centre that needs to take a decision.

We have been conducting numerous awareness campaigns to educate road users. Warning and other signs are also being placed." He also noted an increase in pedestrian crossings due to stolen chain link fences that were meant to prevent jaywalking.

Ramanagar Deputy Commissioner Avinash Menon Rajendran said the police have already identified blackspots. "During the road safety meet headed by the Chief Secretary on Tuesday, numerous instructions have been given. We have proposed the NHAI to construct three flyovers, an underpass, and skywalks. Additionally, we have requested them to address drainage issues to prevent waterlogging. We have provided NHAI with a deadline of one month to resolve these matters."

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I, Praveen Babu, Residing at 010, OAKMONT APARTMENTS,6/2, LAKSHMAIAH LAYOUT, HORAMAVU, BANGALORE,560043, KARNATAKA, INDIA. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from PARVEEN BABU TO PRAVEEN BABU vide affidavit dated 13.10.2014 sworn to before Advocate and NotaryG.S. Raju Bangalore.

I, Nagesh.M.K, S/o Kalegowda, R/a No.134, 1st Main Road, Chandrashekar Layout, Srigandhadakaval, Sunkadakatte, Vishwaneedam Post, B'lore- 91. i have changed my Minor Son name from M.N.Manvik to M.N.Mourya Vardhan. Vide affidavit Dated : 07-06-2023. Sworn Before Notary : B. Hanamantharaya.

I, FARHEEN FAZALULLAH KHAN., R/at No.1, Patel Shelter Ramaiah Nagar Kothnur Bangalore- 560077, have changed my name to FARHEEN FAZLULLAH KHAN vide affidavit dated: 3/7/2023 Before Notary Sivakumara. M.N Bangalore.

I, Gopalappa R S s/o Shyamanna R/o Gundarlahalli, Byadanuru Po, Pavagada Tq, Tumakuru 561202 have changed my name to Gopal Rajavanthi Shyamanna (Gopal R S) affidavit Dt.22/06/2023 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru. Present my camp at Bengaluru

I, Edwin Paul S/o MJ Paul R/o No.24, 2nd Cross,9th main, Jayaram Reddy garden, doddabanaswadi, banaswadi, Bengaluru, have changed my minor daughter's name about 1 year and 3 months, from Michaela Edwin to Michaela Rose Edwin

I, Kedilaya Deepthi d/o Ashoka Barekere R/o #17 Papareddypalya Nagarbhavi B'luru-560072 have changed my name to Barekere Kedilaya Deepthi for all Purposes.

I, Mahma Rajani R/o No.1, Murugesh Mudaliar Road, Frazer town, Bengaluru 560005 have changed my minor son name from Minza Nusrath Azad to Minza Nusrath Azad Rajani affidavit Dt.05/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Lipsa Lorraine D'souza W/O Mr Deavalin David D'souza R/o No. S201, Ashoka Nest, Kothanur, Tippanna Layout, Bangalore 560077 have changed My name from Lipsa Nayak to Lipsa Lorraine D'souza for all future purposes.

I, Akhilesh Chillal R/o #202 , M B R Scapple , Sy No 18/1, Bannerghatta Road, Gottigere, B'lore-560083 have changed my name to Akhilesh Prashant Chillal vide affidavit dt: 04/07/2023 before notary Harisha G B'lore.

I Rukmina V I W/O Rajesh R/O 851, Adarsha Nilaya Bheemaiah Layout,4th Cross,K R Puram,Near, Ganesh Temple,Bangalore, North Krishnarajapuram,Bangalore-560036. Have Changed My Name To Rukmina

I Vibha Kumari W/O, Binod Kumar Singh R/o 3016, Maruti Apt, 2nd Cross, Wind Tunnel Road, Murgeshpalya, Bengaluru, 560017, Karnataka have changed my name to Vibha Singh for all purposes.

I, Sridharan A S/o Ammasaikutty R/o 110/3 Nallakattipalayam Thulukkamuthur Tiruppur Tamilnadu -641654 have changed my name to Sridharan

I, Ritu Gupta w/o Vinod Kumar # 001 Anjanadhari Apartment Near ESI Road Yeshwantpur Bangalore - 560022 have changed my name to Ritu Rani for all purpose

I Himanshu Joshi S/o Dilip Kumar R/o #43 , Flat No-102 , Papaiah Reddy Lane New Thippasandra B'lore-110075 have changed my name to Joshi Himanshu Dilip Kumar

I, Geeta Arun Rao W/O, Y Arun Rao R/o Shantiniketan Apt, 2nd Cross, Sonappa Layout, Amruthahalli, Blore 92 have changed my name to Geeta Rao for all purposes.

I Chaithanya Ganesha Anil S/O, Not Married R/o 72 2nd Cross 2nd Main Sundernagar Gokula Bangalore 560054 have changed my name to Chaithanya Ganesha A

I, Syed Ahmed R/o #107 , 2nd Floor , DS Max Supreme Apt , A Block Kodipalya Cross B'lore-560060 have changed my name to Syed Nadeem.

I, Jayarama Tavarekere Kempananjaiah, R/o 1304, 29th main, 48th cross, Poornaprajna Lyt, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Jayaram Tavarekere Kempananjaiah, affidavit Dt 04/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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Cell damage

How should you discard your mobile phone?

The significant surge in dependency on technology has made ways for bringing ease to life. The new work models for remote and hybrid workers further amplified the demand for electronic gadgets.

Faster upgradation to gadgets models and the increasing need to 'go digital' is enforcing end consumers to discard their gadgets quicker than ever before, eventually adding up to e-waste mountains.

India has become one of the largest producers of e-waste, leaving behind China and the US. The recent data states – India has generated 1.71 million metric tons of e-waste as compared to 59.40 million metric tons of e-waste generated globally. The growing problem raises red flags to environmental sustainability and calls for a greater need to embed better e-waste management solutions.

Improper disposal of electronic gadgets Technology is advancing at an unprecedented pace and with growing digital needs, brands are frequently releasing new models which cause people to upgrade their devices. Even a lot of electronic devices in proper working condition also become obsolete. The updated versions overshadow the previous versions of the gadgets and thus, they turn into waste. Electronic gadgets are not just the assembled motherboards, chargers, USBs, etc., they contain toxic substances that must be handled and disposed of properly when no longer needed.

The consequences of e-waste in landfills can be life-threatening to people's health. It affects the air quality and can pollute the ecosystem for generations to come. Improper disposal can pose serious health concerns by releasing toxic chemicals, impacting the quality of human health and nature.

Challenges in e-waste disposal

Despite the implementation of e-waste rules in India, the process faces various infrastructural and regulatory challenges. Businesses bear significant compliance costs, both in terms of manpower and finances, leading to attempts to minimize their obligations. The limited waste management capacity further compounds the challenges, as the formal sector can only handle 0.4 million tons of e-waste compared to the annual generation of 1.6 million tons. Consequently, the collaboration between businesses and formal waste management companies is hindered. While the demand for electronic gadgets is high, adopting environmentally responsible e-waste handling practices can play a vital role in reducing carbon footprints during the production of new devices.

> **Refurbishing is becoming more popular among consumers who care for the environment in the evolving circular economy space**

Refurbishing: A step more progressive than recycling As the market is continuing to produce more gadgets, it is imperative to change the perspective towards handling them. For environmentally-conscious customers, refurbishing is becoming more evident in handling gadgets responsibly and contributing to the evolving circular economy space. Reusing e-waste can significantly create a positive effect on the current environment and refurbishing is emerging as one progressive step in making sure the waste does not end up in landfills and rather securely repurposed.

While on the other hand, recycling is considered an insufficient way of managing e-waste. Only 5% of the waste is recycled in the process while the remaining 95% of it makes its way to scrap dealers. Subsequently, users must understand that even powerful recycling processes produce some waste, harmful to the environment. Refurbishing, in that scenario, is still significant as the functioning parts of the gadgets are serviced and reused in new gadgets.

In recent years, refurbished electronics have made its way to the consumer market for its myriad of benefits. With technology advancements, electronic gadgets have seen a burgeoning demand among new-age customers. However, work-from-home culture involved every family in financial planning. Customers who once used to pay a hefty amount on upgrading to brand-new models of their older devices have now started understanding the value of money. This has led to a spike in the sale of refurbished gadgets.

Unlike second-hand devices, these refurbished gadgets undergo a series of technical and quality checks just like a brand-new gadget unboxed. It brings many inches closer to the mint condition that not only treats the environment responsibly but is also not heavy on the pocket. Many players are handling their job responsibly in increasing the credibility and durability of refurbished gadgets through extended warranty plans. This increases users' interest without creating piles of e-waste.

Considering the ecological condition of the planet, there is a dire need to shift towards a circular economy. Consumers must consider discovering new and sustainable ways of handling e-waste to disrupt the present supply chain models, negatively impacting the environment. Refurbished gadgets can contribute significantly and help customers shift towards sustainability.

(Soumitra Gupta, CEO of XtraCover for IANS)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Endometriosis linked to reduction in fertility: Study

Endometriosis is linked to a reduction in fertility before diagnosis of the disease, according to new research published on Wednesday.

Endometriosis is a chronic inflammatory condition that affects up to about 10 per cent of women of child-bearing age. Tissue from the lining of the womb grows in other places, such as the ovarian and fallopian tubes.

Researchers from the Helsinki University Hospital in Finland found that the number of first live births in the period before diagnosis of endometriosis was half that of women without the painful condition.

This was the case regardless of what form of endometriosis the women had: ovarian, peritoneal, deep endometriosis or other types.

In addition, the researchers found evidence that the number of babies women had before endometriosis was diagnosed was significantly reduced, compared to women who did not have endometriosis.

"Our findings suggest that doctors who see women suffering from painful menstruation and chronic pelvic pain, should keep in mind the possibility of endometriosis and treat them effectively," said Professor Oskari Heikinheimo, at the varsity.

"Doctors should discuss with these women the possible effects on their fertility, in addition to the effects of their age, and the impairment of fertility should be minimised by offering relevant treatment for endometriosis without delay," he added. **-IANS**

All you need to know about...

Infection control

1 death every 10 seconds
Three million children and adolescents die from infectious diseases every year, equivalent to one death every 10 seconds, with India, Nigeria and Pakistan sharing the highest disease burden, according to a new study published in The Lancet journal.

In low-income countries
Infectious diseases were found to have caused more than half of such deaths in low to middle-income countries, compared with 6 per cent in high-income countries, the study led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, US, said.

Need to shift focus to older children, teens
Looking across 204 countries between 1990 and 2019 from birth to 24 years of age, the study found infectious disease control measures to have largely focused on children aged under five, with scarce attention given to young people between five and 24 years old.
Noting this demographic shift in disease burden, the study, thus, called for global disease control efforts to have a greater focus on older children and adolescents.

Disease demographic
Diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria accounted for two-thirds of infectious diseases and death in this demographic, while HIV and tuberculosis were found to be the leading causes among older adolescents.

What needs to be done
Murdoch Children's professor Peter Azzopardi said it underscored the urgent need to take stock of infectious disease control. More adolescents than younger children have been affected by these emergent diseases, challenging the almost exclusive focus on younger children within existing infectious disease control, the study said.

—Agencies

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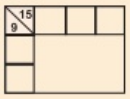
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

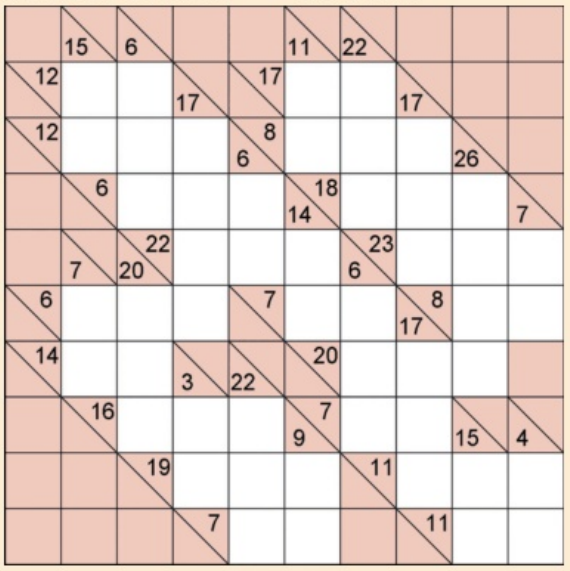
How many small boxes of size 10 cm x 8 cm x 6 cm can be packed in a large box of size 60 cm x 40 cm x 30 cm?

Kakuro

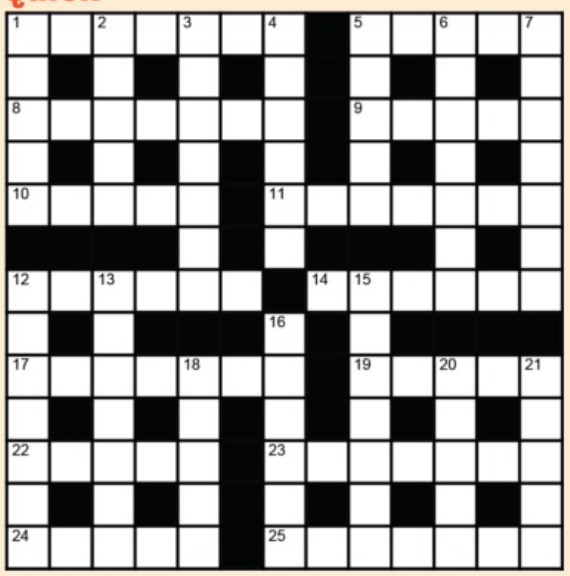
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Unit of electric charge (7)
5 Criminal group (5)
8 Kalyanji's brother and musical partner (7)
9 Men (5)
10 Snow and rain (5)
11 Made-up story (7)
12 Former Karnataka Governor who went on to become India's President (1,1,4)
14 Capital of Manipur (6)
17 Gathering a harvest (7)
19 Fight ___ and nail : fight hard and till the end? (5)
22 Excessive (5)
23 Chosen (7)
24 Check accounts (5)
25 D in DTP (7)

DOWN

1 Unrefined (5)
2 Arbitrary decree (5)
3 Not a youngster? (7)
4 Brings up to date (6)
5 Wizardry (5)
6 North European language (7)
7 2019-20 FA Cup Champions (7)
12 Wart (7)
13 Protected (7)
15 Fingerless gloves (7)
16 Gave consent (6)
18 Not suitable (5)
20 Group of eight (5)
21 Required to answer to charges in court (3,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS T

BDXJMDJ FOB MHG SJG GOVKFG VB XZ WOUMJBB XB HL XB MHG GFJ BVRPXWXGS HZ GFJ XMGJPPXKJMDJ.

Linemaro

If I know what love is, it's because of you

Mindchow

Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor

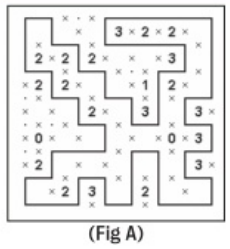
Joke of the day

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand

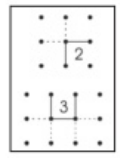
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

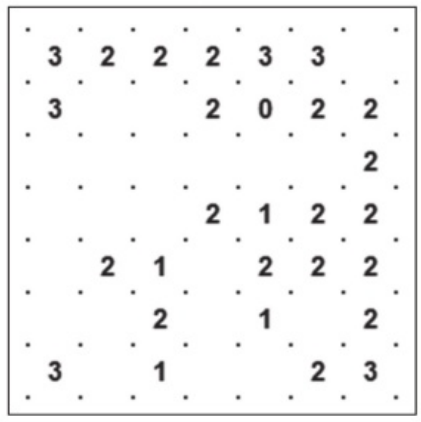


(Fig B) Not Allowed

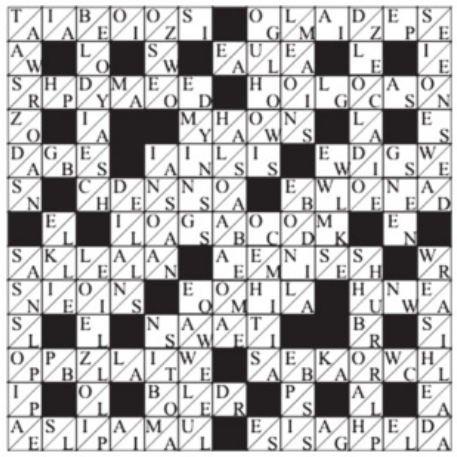
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



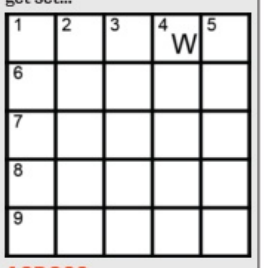
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sward; 6 Iters; 7 To duo; 8 So ire; 9 Pryer

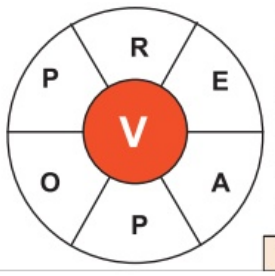
DOWN

1 Do Pro; 2 Us ere; 3 Stair; 4 Weird; 5 Troys

Mensapuzzle

What comes next in the right sequence?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4		6					
		5					3	
	2	7	1					
		1	5	4				6
2		8				3		4
9				6	3	2		
					9	6	1	
	3					7		
					4		2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

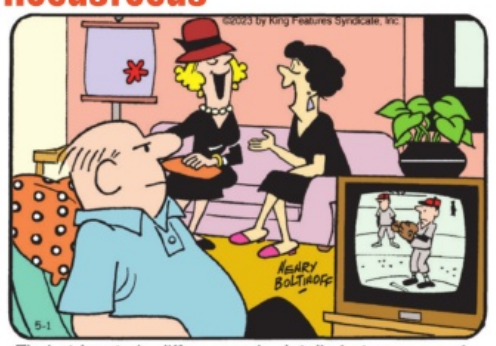
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4
3 6 8 9

Medium = 36
3 4 6 6

Hard = 11
3 9 9 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

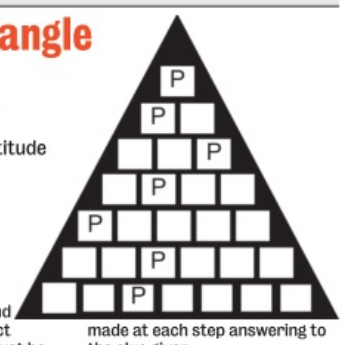
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. TV screen is different. 3. Leaf is missing. 4. Arm is showing. 5. Woman's hair is different. 6. Necklace is different.

Riddler

Crack the code to find three ball sports:
ATQQJDGFQQ, YJSSNX, XVZFXM.
Code is sequential i.e. if you think A = G then it will follow that B = H, C = I, and so on

Alpha triangle

1 16th letter
2 Dad
3 Sitter's creation
4 Jewellery stone
5 Of the highest latitude
6 Softwood tree
7 Well-known



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

THE LOUSY GLASSES YOU SOLD ME MAKE EVERYTHING APPEAR UPSIDE DOWN!
THAT'S STRANGE ... PUT THEM ON
HOLD IT!...I THINK I'VE SPOTTED THE PROBLEM!!
4-18

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

SO MARY IS IN REHAB FROM DRIVING THE BUS FOR THE SENIOR CLASS TRIP?
YES, APPARENTLY SHE'S DEALING WITH PTSCTD.
PTSCTD?
POST-TRAUMATIC SENIOR CLASS TRIP DISORDER.

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, happiness may be around you. It can help you enjoy your day-to-day work. Your vital power may help you make difficult decisions that will increase your profits in the near future. You may plan for a work-related short trip. Subordinates and colleagues may support you in completing your work on time. Students may find themselves more focused on their studies. You are advised to control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull. Sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health as well. You may also be upset due to the health issues of your family member. Your expenditure on worthless stuff may affect your savings. You may be a victim of a conspiracy, so you are advised to keep an eye on your opponents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions that may bring benefits in the near future. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your partner, you may invest some amount in the business, which may be profitable in the near future. Your understanding with your spouse may increase, resulting in harmony in your domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at your office. Due to mental tiredness, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of elders' blessings, job seekers may attain a higher position in their jobs, and managers may get promoted to top management. You may receive rewards that increase your status. Professionally, you may perform better.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be happy and have good patience, which may reflect in your way of working. You may complete your tasks efficiently. You may plan to visit a spiritual place or make a donation to a religious organization or charity. Lovebirds may develop trust in their relationship, and you may be able to overcome your opponents.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which affects your way of working. There may be some delays in completing your projects, which may also affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Lovebirds may experience a breakup, and job seekers may be disappointed in terms of finding a new job.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in partnership and expect some long-distance travel as well. You will build trust with your spouse, bringing harmony to your domestic life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may perform your best at the office. You may have a good bond with your boss and may receive new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now, and you may receive good incentives for your work. Disputes with siblings may also be resolved, and job seekers may find new jobs.

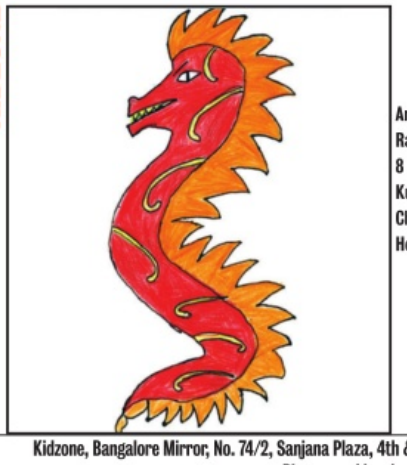
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel that your life has become challenging. It is advised to seek advice from your elders to sustain in the given situation and to maintain patience. The education of your kids may also worry you, and you may have a short trip related to their academics. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making any investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may become a victim of dissatisfaction as you may not see the results of your hard work, leading to disappointment. It is advised to read documents carefully before entering into a new contract. Investing in assets is also possible. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with social get-togethers and family occasions, which may increase your network. You may also plan for a work-related short trip. Disputes between siblings will be resolved, and your subordinates may cooperate with you to complete a difficult project. Your confidence may be high, and you are advised to maintain patience while interacting with others.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers, and you may become more polite with the people around you, which can improve your image among relatives and friends. You may spend money on buying artefacts and other items that will enhance your social status. Additionally, you may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

KIDZONE



Arjun Ramesh, 8 Years, Kumarans Childrens Home

F Mario Clinton, 14 Years, Divya Shanthi School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
60°30'40:10'8'6=
(60:10)(30:6)(40:8)=
6'5'5=150

BULL'S EYE
APPROVE, aver, over, pave, prove, rave, rove

STRIKE OUT

T	A	B	B	O	O	S		G	L	A	D	E	S	
A		O		W		A	L	A		E		E		
R	H	Y	M	E	D		O	I	L	C	A	N		
A		N		A		N		D		P		A		E
C		E		P		E		N		E		N		U
R		R		N		T		C		T		O		A
R	E	A	P	I	N	G		T	O	O	T	H		
E		U				A								
V	G	I	R	I		I	M	P	H	A	L			
S	L	E	E	T		F	I	C	T	I	O	N		
S		S		E				S				A		
R	K		L		R		A		I		R			
A	N	A	N	D		I		G	E	N	T	S		
C		E		P		E		N		E		U		
U	N	D	U	E		E	L	E	C	T	E	D		
A	U	D	I	T		D	E	S	K	T	O	P		

QUICK

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	W	S
O	S	I	E	R
O	U	T	D	O
R	E	S	I	T
P	E	R	R	Y

RIDDLER
Answer: Volleyball, tennis, squash (A becomes V, B becomes W,...)

SUDOKU

1	4	3	6	9	7	5	8	2
6	9	5	4	2	8	1	3	7
8	2	7	1	3	5	4	6	9
3	7	1	5	4	2	8	9	6
2	6	8	9	7	1	3	5	4
9	5	4	8	6	3	2	7	1
4	8	2	7	5	9	6	1	3
5	3	9	2	1	6	7	4	8
7	1	6	3	8	4	9	2	5

MENSA PUZZLE
D: the figure rotates 90° at each stage and a different portion is shaded in turn

QUOTE UNCODE
Science has not yet taught us if madness is or is not the sublimity of the intelligence.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 8 - 3 + 6 = 4
3 + 4 x 6 - 6 = 36
Medium
9 / 9 x 3 + 8 = 11
Hard

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, Pa, Lap, Opal, Polar, Poplar, Popular.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Impatience helps

Vidya explains how she chooses a role — by thinking as audience would

Vidya Balan is known to have played an array of characters in her career as an actor. The secret behind the variety of projects that she picks up is that she chooses them not as an actor, but as an audience. As she arrived to promote her upcoming release, Vidya said, "I am very impatient and get easily bored as an audience. So when I read something primarily, I ask myself would I like to watch this? Then of course I figure whether this character calls out to me. Director is very-very crucial, also the producer... You can only make the right film with the right kind of producer (is backing it)."

The actor is ecstatic that her film is finally releasing in theatres, after a series of projects that released on OTT. She said, "There is a lot of excitement because my last outing in theatres was Mission Mangal, which did very well. So, fingers crossed. I am busy doing promotions and the good thing about promotions is that you don't get the time to feel the pressure, we get so tired by the end of the day and you don't get the time to process what you're feeling."

Ask her if she likes being called an actor or a star and she signs off saying, "I like being called an acting star.

–Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

Just on a short break

Samantha Ruth Prabhu wants to press pause on her acting plans, but only for a temporary reason. The actress will wrap her commitment for 'Citadel' and then take a break for some healing time.

Contrary to reports about a year-long break, a source close to the actor revealed that this is going to be a temporary halt, "Samantha is definitely going on a break, but only for a few months to focus on her health as she had one crazy year with back-to-back shoots.

She will kickstart prepping for her projects soon after the break." After being diagnosed with Myositis, the actress had barely had any time to recuperate at a stretch. She recently penned a note marking a year of battling Myositis. **–ETimes**

Pricey pad

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code

From Suhana to Janhvi and Madhuri to Kajol, everyone in B-Town seems to be busy shopping for expensive homes

Touch the skies

Makers of the upcoming film 'Tejas' starring Kangana Ranaut as an Air Force Pilot on Wednesday unveiled the release date.

Kangana took to Instagram and shared stills from the film along with the release date announcement.

The first image showed Kangana dressed in a uniform as she walks out of Tejas, a multi-role combat aircraft.

The second picture depicted an intense scene, a jeep burning in the background and Kangana in her action avatar.

She posted this pic on her Insta stories as well and captioned it, "India's first aerial action movie is here." Kangana also shared a photo in complete uniform.

As soon as the announcement was made on social media, the actor's fans flooded the comment section with heart and fire emojis.

One of the users wrote, "Waiting Eagerly." **–IANS**

In last interview, Julian spoke on dangers of hiking

British actor Julian Sands, who was confirmed dead after his disappearance during a mountain hike near Mt. Baldy in Southern California on January 13, had confirmed the dangers of hiking in his last interview.

As per 'Variety', he was quoted telling 'Radio Time UK' during his last interview, "I've found spooky things on mountains, when you know you're in a place where many people have lost their lives, whether it be on the Eiger or in the Andes."

He further added: "You may be confronted with human remains and that can be chilling. It's not necessarily supernatural, it's possibly all too natural - what I would call hypernatural."

"You're in the presence of big nature and big nature is revealing itself in all its power. It can take us over a threshold of hypersensitivity into a realm of natural forces."

According to 'Variety', "In his last UK interview with the Radio Time, conducted six months before he was discovered, Sands described climbing as 'solace and a sort of existentialist self-negation, but equally a self-affirmation'," adding "if you can deal with dangerous mountains, you can certainly deal with life as an actor - the two are quite complementary." **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Another chapter

Thothapuri: Chapter 1 that released nine months ago got rave reviews. Now, producer KA Suresh is ready with its sequel – Thothapuri: Chapter 2. A poster of the movie was released on Guru Purnima on Monday. The poster gives a hint on the character Dhananjay plays in the movie.

The first part of the film highlighted the importance of communal harmony. Navarasa Nayaka Jaggesh played the lead in Thothapuri: Chapter 1 while Suman Ranganath, Adithi Prabhudeva played key roles. Dolly Dhananjay made a brief appearance in the climax. It is learnt that Dolly is playing the lead in the sequel. According to Suresh, the team of Thothapuri: Chapter 2 is busy with post-production work. "I am very happy with the quality of the movie. The first copy of the movie is expected to be ready in a few days. The movie has punchy dialogues and comedy," said Suresh. Dattatreya, Suman Ranganath and Aditi Prabhudeva are in the sequel too.

Evidence ready

Director Praveen Ramakrishna is busy with arrangements for the release of the movie Evidence, which is expected to hit the screen in August. Praveen Ramakrishna debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie.

The movie was shot at Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Chikkamagaluru, and in and around Nelamangala. The director is expected to make arrangements for the release of the movie's teaser by this month's end. Apart from handling the megaphone, Praveen has written the script and screenplay for this movie that revolves around a murder.

Srinivas Prabhu, K Madesh (Kodihalli), Nataraj CS (Channasandra) are bankrolling the movie.

Ganesan, who earned fame through the movie Robo, plays the lead while Kiragoorina Gayyaligalu fame Manasa Joshi is paired with him.